

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 AF-10 HA-05 CU-04  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-05 MCE-00  
NEA-10 /153 W

-----094396 181353Z/42

R 181203Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, UR, US, ,EPR, PARM

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA CONTINUES HARSHER LINE TOWARD  
U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

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REF: (A) MOSCOW 1000, (B) MOSCOW 2115, (C) MOSCOW 2067

SUMMARY: REF A SENT JAN. 20 REPORTED RELATIVELY HARSHER  
LINE IN SOVIET MEDIA TOWARD U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND NOTED  
PRIVATE STATEMENTS BY TWO SOVIETS THAT "DIRECTIVE" HAS  
BEEN ISSUED TO SOVIET MEDIA TO TREAT U.S. WITH MORE

"BALANCE". WE NOTE THAT HARSH TREATMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUES UNABATED. TREATMENT OF U.S. DOMESTIC ISSUES STILL CONTAINS DECIDED AMOUNT OF VENOM WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL BALANCED ARTICLES. CURRENT SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT IS PROBABLY BASED ON MOSCOW'S IRRITATION AT LACK OF SALT PROGRESS; ITS RECOGNITION OF RELATIVE DOWNGRADING OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS BY NEW US ADMINISTRATION; AND THE INCREASED CLASH OF US-SOVIET INTERESTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS, SOVIET ANTI-U.S. PRESS CRITICISM CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON ALLEGED U.S. EFFORTS TO ISOLATE SOVIETS AND "PROGRESSIVE" ARAB STATES FROM MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT PROCESS; ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT ON SOMALI SIDE IN HORN CONFLICT (REF B REPORTS RECENT ESPECIALLY STRONG SOVIET CRITICISM OF U.S. IN HORN); PURPORTED U.S. ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN ITS INFLUENCE IN ASIA THROUGH ENCOURAGING MILITARISM IN JAPAN, SEOUL AND ASEAN. SIGNED FEB. 14 PRAVDA ARTICLE EVEN CHARGED U.S. INCITEMENT OF KHMER-VN BORDER CONFLICT. IT POINTED TO US-THAI AND US-UK NAVAL MANEUVERS NEAR KAMPUCHEA CHARGING THAT THEY REPRESENT A "SHARP ACTIVATION OF US MILITARY FORCES" IN THE VN-KHMER BORDER CONFLICT AREA AND ARE THUS "DIRECTED TOWARD THE AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF CONFLICT". EDITORIAL ATTEMPTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS CASE BY TYING THIS ALLEGED US OBJECTIVE TO QUOTE FROM BRZEZINSKI DESCRIBING CONFLICT AS "VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTING EVENT". A JAN. 20 TASS NEWS ITEM CHIDES BRZEZINSKI FOR ACCUSING SOVIETS OF "INTERFERENCE" IN THE HORN. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN NO DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS SINCE JAN. 15 INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN REFERENCE REPORTED PARA 2, REF A.

2. SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF US-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF ALLEGED US FOOT-DRAGGING ON SALT. THIS WAS THE MAIN THEME OF FEB 11 PRAVDA ARTICLE ON SALT (REF C). THE SOVIET MEDIA HAS RECENTLY INCREASED ITS CRITICISM OF ALLEGED "MASSIVE" HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE US. ATTACKS CONTINUE ON THE US CSCE POSITION AT BELGRADE, THE NEUTRON BOMB, THE US MILITARY BUDGET AND US DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.

3. AS BEFORE, OCCASIONAL POSITIVE ARTICLES ON THE US ARE PRINTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. FAVORABLE ARTICLES HAVE RECENTLY APPEARED ON TWO AMERICAN EXHIBITS IN MOSCOW, ONE OF AMERICAN ART FROM THE METROPOLITAN WHICH IS AT THE PUSHKIN, AND ONE OF ANSEL ADAMS' PHOTOGRAPHS. SEVERAL ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED BY MEMBERS OF A UNION OF

JOURNALISTS GROUP WHICH SPENT TEN DAYS IN THE U.S. ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT, AND THESE HAVE BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE. ONE OF THE GROUP, M. KOVALEV, IN PRAVDA OF FEB. 14, IN LENGTHY ARTICLE ENTITLED "ISN'T IT TIME TO FILL UP THE GLASSES?", GIVES AN UNUSUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ACCOUNT OF HIS CONTACTS IN THE U.S. HE WRITES THAT 66 PERCENT OF AMERICANS POLLED ON THE SUBJECT WERE IN FAVOR OF EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO TALKED WITH THE GROUP IN WASHINGTON ASSURED THEM THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS INTERESTED IN ELIMINATING HINDRANCES TO USEFUL EXCHANGES. THE OBLIGATORY NEGATIVE COMMENTS ARE AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. MOST ARTICLES DEALING WITH SOVIET-U.S. DIFFERENCES ON SALT AND OTHER STRATEGIC ISSUES CONCLUDE

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-05 MCE-00  
NEA-10 /153 W  
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WITH A STANDARD REFERENCE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE.

5. COMMENT: IN GENERAL WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE EVOLUTION OF  
MORE "BALANCE" PREDICTED BY TWO SOVIET NEWSPAPER MEN  
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REF A, AT LEAST IN COVERAGE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.  
INSTEAD WE SEE A CONTINUATION OF THE RELATIVELY HARSH  
LINE THAT COMMENCED IN JANUARY. AMONG THE PROBABLE,  
BASIC CAUSES OF THIS CONTINUED HARSHNESS:  
--MOSCOW'S IRRITATION OVER LACK OF "PROGRESS" IN  
SALT NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS AT THE BELGRADE CSCE MEETINGS;  
--MOSCOW'S RECOGNITION THAT, AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN  
OFFICE, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GRANTING RELATIVELY  
LESS PRIORITY TO SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS AS COMPARED TO  
THE NIXON-FORD YEARS, AND IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE  
CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS;  
--THE HEIGHTENED CLASH OF U.S.-SOVIET INTERESTS IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL AREA, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THE MIDDLE  
EAST AND THE HORN. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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